

April 2013

IN THIS EDITION



Final show in this season's Broadway Voices series features 'A Night with the Phantom and Christine.' See page 3.



Town launches new citizen request software with mobile app. See page 4.

TOWN HALL SCHEDULE

April 16: Town Council meeting (7 p.m.)

April 25: Board of Adjustment meeting (7 p.m.)

April 30: Town Council work session (6 p.m.)

May 6: Town Council meeting (7 p.m.)

Meetings are in the Council Chambers in Building B at Town Hall, 900 Seventh Ave. Town Council meetings are recorded and broadcast (not live) on GTV11 (Time Warner 11, AT&T U-verse 99).



Follow us on Twitter (@TownofGarner) and Facebook (facebook.com/TownofGarner), and watch Town videos on our YouTube channel.



GARNER UPDATE

Vol. 52, No. 58



Construction is moving along nicely at the site of the Garner Veterans Memorial at Lake Benson Park near the park entrance.

Veterans Memorial to be Formally Unveiled May 4

The Garner Veterans Memorial Committee and Town of Garner have scheduled the dedication ceremony for the Garner Veterans Memorial on Saturday, May 4 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Lake Benson Park (921 Buffalo Road).

On Friday, May 3, the Rand's Mill Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution and Town of Garner will hold a wreath-laying ceremony at the memorial at 7 p.m.

The public is welcome to attend both events.

The Garner Veterans Memorial Committee was established in 2006 to plan a structure to memorialize Garner-area veterans. The \$500,000 project was made possible by the many donations from citizens, civic groups, churches and government agencies including the Town of Garner and Wake County.

Keynote speaker for the dedication will be retired brigadier general and current N.C. Secretary of Transportation Tony Tata. Tata will be introduced by Wake County Commissioner Phil Matthews, who is a Vietnam veteran. Numerous other local veterans and active-duty military personnel will also participate in the event.

The Garner Magnet High School Symphonic Band will perform a mini-concert at the beginning of the dedication and will also play the national anthem. The Hall Sisters and former Miss North Carolina Dana Stephenson will sing at the event.

The Garner Veterans Memorial features pillars with the names of the 67 Garner-area veterans who have died serving their country as well as historical narrative about the wars and conflicts in which the nation has been involved.



Learn more about the memorial at garnerveteransmemorial.org.



A Message from the Mayor



Watch the mayor's 'Great People in Garner' on GTV11 (Time Warner 11, AT&T U-verse 99).

It has been a remarkable few weeks in Garner. On March 12, voters went to the polls and authorized the Town to proceed with an ambitious bond program totaling up to \$35.7 million that will transform our town.



Voters approved four bond questions with "yes" percentages ranging from 74.7 percent for Public Safety and Services Facilities Bonds to 66.5

percent for Redevelopment Bonds. As a result of this endorsement of the bond program by Garner voters, you'll see a new indoor recreation center, sidewalks and greenway construction, and a new police station and Town Hall, among other things, in the coming years.

Staff have already issued requests for qualifications from architectural, engineering and surveying firms in order to proceed with the police station and Town Hall projects as well as sidewalk construction around town.

As if that wasn't big enough news for awhile, Town staff was notified last week that Garner has been selected as one of 20 finalists nationwide for 2013 All-America City honors. The All-America City award has been described as the Nobel Prize for civic accomplishment. In mid-June, a contingent from Garner will go to Denver to compete to be one of the 10 localities that earn the honor this year. We'll keep you posted.

Ronnie S. Williams



Commercial Property of the Month

The State Employees Credit Union branch at 1473 Benson Road was named the March Commercial Property of the Month by the Town of Garner. SECU employees (from left) Teresa Prouty, Chelsea Deese and Donna Hudson are pictured with Neighborhood Improvement Manager Reginald Buie and Mayor Ronnie Williams (right).

Electronics Recycling Event April 20

The Garner-based tech company Wingswept is having its fifth annual Technology Spring Clean on Saturday, April 20 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the company's parking lot at 605 Poole Drive. You can drop off unwanted electronic items such as old computers, CPUs, hard drives, printers, copiers, scanners and more. The items will be responsibly recycled. Hard drives will be removed from computers, and all hard drives will be securely shredded before recycling. The recycling service is free. For more information, visit wingswept.com/recycle.

Garner Police Seek Citizens' Feedback

The Garner Police Department is seeking input through a survey posted online as part of its efforts to receive reaccreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA).

Citizens are encouraged to take the survey and provide the Police Department feedback on its performance, competency of agency employees, perception of officers' attitudes and behaviors, concerns about safety and security in Garner, and recommendations or suggestions for improvement.



The survey results will be used to guide the department in its decision-making processes, as well as development of policy and procedure. The results will be shared within the agency and the community.

You can take the survey by going to the [Police Department's homepage](#) and clicking on the link at the bottom of the page.

The survey will be posted until May 15. Thank you for your participation and valuable feedback.



Lake Benson Boathouse Open for Season

Lake Benson boathouse (975 Bufaloe Road) has opened for the 2013 season. The boathouse will operate on Friday afternoons noon-7 p.m., Saturdays 7 a.m.-7 p.m. and Sundays noon-7 p.m. through the end of October. Friday operations will be suspended during July and August.

Although no private boats are allowed on the lake, the Town offers

rental boats for visitors, and there is free fishing from the boathouse dock. Boats without motors are \$4 per hour or a daily rate of \$20. Boats with motors are \$8 per hour or a daily rate of \$40. Canoes rent for \$5 an hour. Life jackets are provided at no extra cost. For more information, contact Stephanie Shaffer at sshaffer@garnernc.gov or (919) 661-6892.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Business and Consumer Expo Set for April 11



The Garner Chamber of Commerce Business and Consumer Expo 2013 will be held Thursday, April 11 at Garner United Methodist Church (201 Methodist Drive). The expo will be a powerful business-to-business and business-to-consumer showcase, providing local businesses a day of promotion as well as consumers the opportunity to experience the best that Garner has to offer. This year, doors will be open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and admission is FREE. For questions or more information, contact Denise Nowell at (919) 772-6440 or dnowell@garnerchamber.com.

Towne Players of Garner to Perform 'Our Town' in April



Step back in time with the Towne Players' production of "Our Town" at Garner Performing Arts Center (742 W. Garner Road). This classic play is about an average town's citizens in the early 20th century as depicted through their everyday lives. Shows are April 19-20 and 25-27 at 8 p.m., as well as a matinee show April 27 at 2 p.m. Visit towneplayers.org for more information.



You can follow GPAC on Twitter (@GPACGarner).

Volunteer April 20 to Help Keep Garner Clean, Green



Volunteer to help clean up Lake Benson's shoreline and the streets of Garner in the Spring Big Sweep and Litter Sweep on Saturday, April 20 from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Volunteers should meet at White Deer Park Nature Center (2400 Aversboro Road). They will receive a free breakfast and T-shirt or tote bag. Registration is required. To help clean up the Lake Benson watershed, contact Stephanie Shaffer at (919) 661-6892 or by e-mail at sshaffer@garnernc.gov. To help clean Garner's streets, contact Jaclyn Rametta at (919) 773-4421 or by e-mail at jrametta@garnernc.gov.



Broadway Voices Season Concludes on May 4

Enjoy "A Night with the Phantom and Christine" in the final installment of this season's Broadway Voices series at Garner Performing Arts Center (742 W. Garner Road) on Saturday, May 4 at 7:30 p.m. Featured performers are Broadway stars Ron Bohmer and Sandra Joseph. To learn more about the show, or to purchase tickets for it, visit garnerperformingartscenter.com.



Town Launches Citizen Request Software with Mobile Phone App

The Town of Garner is pleased to launch “garner info,” a new civic engagement tool enabling citizens to stay in touch with the Town. Through this new, easy-to-use service, citizens have access to important Town information, can submit service requests, report issues, and track their requests online and via your mobile phones. The tool is powered by the software company PublicStuff.

Citizens will be able to submit

service requests from a free mobile app and also soon from garnernc.gov. Here’s how the service request tool works:

1. See something that needs to be fixed like a pothole, broken street signs or lamps, graffiti, abandoned vehicles, illegal trash dumping, etc.?
2. Submit a service request including your location and even a photo via your iPhone or Android device or via the website. You can also submit

requests using any mobile phone that has internet access and SMS text messaging.

3. The relevant Town staff members receive the request and resolve the problem quickly and efficiently.

The Town will also provide information on events and more through the app. To download the app, go to publicstuff.com/iphone/garner-nc for Apple devices or publicstuff.com/android/garner-nc for Android devices.

Garner Racks Up Awards for Communications Efforts

The Town of Garner has won three awards for its communications products in the North Carolina City and County Communicators 2013 Excellence in Communications competition, which is open to local governments throughout the state.

The Town won second-place honors in three categories – electronic external newsletter, direct mail or print advertising and special one-time television program.

The award-winning products were the Garner Update newsletter, which is e-mailed monthly to over 5,500 citizens; a special show produced for GTV11 (and also available online) on Garner police and a two-page advertorial spread in the Visit Raleigh 2012-13 visitors guide.

Public Information Officer Rick Mercier is responsible for all aspects of the newsletter. Mercier also wrote the content for the advertorial and selected the photographs used for the spread. In addition, he shot one of the photographs used for the ad. Rob Smith, recreation superintendent

with the Town of Garner’s Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department, took two of the photos that appear in the ad.

The television special – “Around Town: Special Edition – Garner Police” – started airing on GTV11 (Time Warner channel 11, AT&T U-verse channel 99) last July and continues to air occasionally. It is also available on demand at garnernc.gov and on the Town’s YouTube channel.

The television show was filmed, directed and edited by Adam Carroll, a videographer and director with PEG Media Partnership. Mercier produced the special program. Garner Police Sgt. Lorie Smith and Mercier worked with Carroll to determine the content of the show.

In 2012, the Town of Garner won a first-place NC3C Excellence in Communications award for its May 2011 “American Idol” homecoming for Scotty McCreery. That event won for being the “most creative with the least dollars spent.”

Garner Police Chief Named to State Board

Garner Police Chief Brandon Zuidema was recently elected by peers from around the state to the Board of Directors for the North Carolina Association of Chiefs of Police.



Zuidema succeeds Cary Police Chief Patricia Bazemore, who stepped down from the nine-member board.

Zuidema represents the association’s Region VII, which comprises Wake, Johnston, Durham and Orange counties and extends north to the Virginia border.

Zuidema was named chief of the Garner Police Department on Dec. 1, 2009.



GTV11 productions are available on demand at garnernc.gov.